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Letter dated 1 March 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

Introduction

1. This report is submitted pursuant to the reporting requirement for the Kosovo Force (KFOR) under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The report covers the period from 1 October to 31 December 2010.

2. As at 31 December 2010, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre was 8,181. This number included 1,528 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. The situation in Kosovo remained generally calm throughout the reporting period, against the background of the elections of 12 December, the poor economic situation and inter-ethnic tensions. KFOR continued to implement its change in military posture, while contributing a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement as well as retaining its capacity to support the Kosovo police and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) as third responder should the situation demand it.

Security situation

4. During the reporting period KFOR operations continued under the Deterrent Presence posture. In close in-theatre cooperation with the Kosovo police and EULEX, KFOR troops sustained their contribution towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and the freedom of movement by conducting intelligence-driven operations, using situational awareness, and through the rapid deployment of manoeuvre forces and reserves if and where deemed necessary to deter violence and deal with crisis situations.

5. KFOR also contributed to the security preparations to support the enthronement of the new Serbian Orthodox Patriarch, Patriarch Irinej, on 3 October 2010 in Pejë/Peć. The Kosovo police supported the operation by controlling and facilitating traffic along the main routes to Pejë/Peć and in Pejë/Peć downtown, while EULEX focused its efforts as second responder in backing the Kosovo police. KFOR assumed full responsibility for the security of the Patriarchate, since it is under the direct protection of KFOR troops.

6. From 4 October 2010, KFOR conducted enhanced security operations and vehicle checkpoint operations in northern Kosovo, in close in-theatre cooperation with EULEX and the Kosovo police. As third responder, KFOR supported the security arrangements for the elections of 12 December.

7. On 29 October 2010, the North Atlantic Council decided to reduce KFOR troops in Kosovo further as a result of a positive assessment of the security situation on the ground. KFOR plans to reduce its troops by early 2011 to approximately 5,000.

8. On 18 November 2010, the KFOR Commander, Major General Erhard Bühler, and the Chief of General Staff of the Serbian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Miloje Miletić, held a high-level meeting of the Joint Implementation Commission of the Military-Technical Agreement in Niš. A further high-level meeting of the Joint Implementation Commission was held on 14 December 2010 in Belgrade.

9. On 14 December 2010, KFOR handed over the static guarding responsibility at the Gorioč Monastery to the Kosovo police. This was the fifth so-called property with designated special status to be transferred to Kosovo Police lead security responsibility in that manner.

New tasks

10. The development of the Kosovo Security Force continues. However, concerns remain about the ethnic balance, shortfalls in mentors and training capabilities, and inadequate equipment and fund donations. At the end of the reporting period the security force had around 2,150 members and was at nearly 85 per cent of its mandated ceiling, with 8 per cent comprising ethnic minorities.

11. During the reporting period, security force engineers continued to support the EULEX Office of Missing Persons in facilitating the investigation of a suspected mass grave site in the vicinity of Obiliq/Obilić. The project was still in its preparatory phase, with security force engineers removing the top layers of soil down to a "zero grade" and level site. The security force remained actively involved in other simultaneous projects, such as a new orphanage at Klinë/Klina.

12. On 18 October 2010, the security force participated in a disaster response exercise at the Pristina Airport. The exercise was conducted as part of a recurring evaluation by the International Civil Aviation Organization, and is a mandatory requirement for certification of airports operating at an international standard. The security force supported the exercise with the deployment of medical staff and ambulances as well as firefighting and search and rescue support elements.

13. On 2 December 2010, at the request of the Albanian authorities, a security force team deployed in the northern Albanian district of Shkodra to assist with relief efforts during the heavy flooding that affected the area. Initially the team consisted of 59 members, 14 vehicles and 4 boats, but when the flood situation worsened, on 7 December 2010 the security force sent an additional contribution of 36 members, 15 trucks and 2 ambulances. The main task of the detachment was to rescue and evacuate people from the flooded area. The security force ended this mission on 18 December 2010.